SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating

	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FOR				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
LEE WEINGRAND A/K/A LEON WEINGRAD			ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC ASSIGNEE OF BALLY TOTAL FITNESS AND GORDON & WEINBERG, P.C. AND			
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff PHILADELPH	HIA CTY	County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	MACOMB CTY, MI	
(E	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		·	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES	ONLY)	
				ID CONDEMNATION CASES, US INVOLVED.	SE THE LOCATION OF THE	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)			
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	A 19087; 610-293-9399	- ND,				
	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		TZENSHIP OF I	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
,			or Diversity Cases Only)		and One Box for Defendant)	
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☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity		of Another State	1 2		
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IV. NATURE OF SUI						
CONTRACT	TORTS		FEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL I 310 Airplane 362 Personal		Agriculture Other Food & Drug	<ul> <li>422 Appeal 28 USC 158</li> <li>423 Withdrawal</li> </ul>	☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust	
☐ 130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product Med. Ma	Ipractice 🗖 625	Drug Related Seizure	28 USC 157	430 Banks and Banking	
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 365 Personal 320 Assault, Libel & Product I.		of Property 21 USC 881 Liquor Laws	PROPERTYRIGHTS	☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation	
& Enforcement of Judgment			R.R. & Truck	☐ 820 Copyrights	☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
☐ 151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers' Injury Pr		Airline Regs.	☐ 830 Patent	Corrupt Organizations  480 Consumer Credit	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability Liability 240 Marine PERSONAL PR		Occupational Safety/Health	☐ 840 Trademark	☐ 480 Consumer Credit☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV	
(Excl. Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fra	ud □ 690	Other		810 Selective Service	
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 371 Truth in I		LABOR Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY  861 HIA (1395ff)	☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property I		Act	862 Black Lung (923)	☐ 875 Customer Challenge	
190 Other Contract	Product Liability 385 Property		Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	12 USC 3410  890 Other Statutory Actions	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Product L Injury		Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	891 Agricultural Acts	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PE		Railway Labor Act	PEDERAL TAX SUITS	892 Economic Stabilization Act	
☐ 210 Land Condemnation☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions t ☐ 442 Employment Sentence		Other Labor Litigation Empl. Ret. Inc.	<ul> <li>870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)</li> </ul>	☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act	
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas Corp		Security Act	☐ 871 IRS—Third Party	895 Freedom of Information	
240 Torts to Land	Accommodations 530 General	1.		26 USC 7609	Act	
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V. ORIGIN (Place	an "X" in One Box Only)				Appeal to District	
☑ 1 Original ☐ 2 R	emoved from 3 Remanded from tate Court Appellate Court	Reope	ned anoth	sferred from		
	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which	h you are filling (D : - 1692P	o not cite jurisdiction	nal statutes unless diversity):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of cause: VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR			<del></del>		
VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS A	CTION DE	MAND \$	CHECK YES only	if demanded in complaint:	
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23			JURY DEMAND	: <b>Ø</b> Yes □No	
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE	SIGNATURE	OF ATTORNEY O	F RECORD			
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RECEIPT#	AMOUNT APPLYING	G IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of				
Address of Plaintiff: 2409 S. Water Street Ph	ALGAOLOMA PA 19148				
Address of Defendant: 28405 Van Ouke Avenue	uamen M1 48093				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Philadelphia	County				
(Use Réverse Side For Ac	lditional Space)				
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and	d any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?				
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes No.				
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ N				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:				
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:					
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	ar previously terminated action in this court?				
	Yes Do				
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior st action in this court?	iit pending or within one year previously terminated				
	Yes D				
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier n	umbered case pending or within one year previously				
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No√				
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?				
	Yes New Yes				
CIVIL: (Place V in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:				
1.   Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1.   Insurance Contract and Other Contracts				
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury				
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation				
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury				
5. □ Patent	5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury				
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please				
	specify)				
7. Civil Rights	7.  Products Liability				
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos				
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases				
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)				
11. All other Federal Question Cases	(x tease speekly)				
(Please specify) FAIR OBBT COLLECTION PRACTIC	G ACT				
ARBITRATION CERT	IFICATION				
Check Appropriate Co., counsel of record do hereby certification					
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and					
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.					
The Rener other than monetary damages is sought.	55719				
DATE: 113 112   INCAPULATION	55767				
Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.#  NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.					
DATE: 7/B/n Michael Prils/5	1 55767				
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#				

CIV. 609 (6/08)

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM Lee Weingrand alkla Leon Weingrad CIVIL ACTION Asset Acceptance, LLC MO Grondon Weinberg, P.C. and Frederic 1. Weinberg, Esq. NO. In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned. SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS: (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. () (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( ) (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( ) (e) Special Management - Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) (f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.

Telephone

FAX Number

Attorney-at-law

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT FILE NO: CV-

LEE WEINGRAND	)	
A/K/A LEON WEINGRAD, an individual	)	
Plaintiff	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	COMPLAINT
ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC	)	•
ASSIGNEE OF BALLY TOTAL FITNESS	)	
and	)	
GORDON & WEINBERG, P.C.	)	
and	)	
FREDERIC I. WEINBERG, ESQUIRE	)	
Defendants	)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

### **COMPLAINT**

### I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Jurisdiction of this Court arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. section 1692 *et seq* (hereinafter "FDCPA"), Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity Act, 73 Pa.C.S. 2270.1 *et seq* (hereinafter "FCEUA") and Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Consumer Protection Law, 72 Pa.C.S 201-1, *et seq* (hereinafter "UTCPL"), which prohibit debt collectors from engaging in abusive, false, deceptive, misleading and unfair practices.
- 2. Venue is proper in this District because the acts and transactions occurred here and Plaintiff resides within this district.

### II. PARTIES

3. Plaintiff, Lee Weingrand a/k/a Leon Weingrad ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person who resides at 2409 S. Water Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 and is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. section 1692a(3).

- 4. Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation that was primarily for personal, family or household purposes, in this case, a gym membership, and is therefore a "debt" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 5. Defendant, Asset Acceptance, LLC assignee of Bally Total Fitness ("Asset"), is upon information and belief, a corporation located at 28405 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren, MI 48093, and, at all time relevant herein, operated as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and FCEUA, 73 P.S. § 2270.3 and acted by and through its owners, managers, officer, shareholders, authorized representatives, partners, employees, agents and/or workmen.
- 6. Defendant Asset, at all times relevant hereto, were persons who used an instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which was the collection of debts, who regularly collected or attempted to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due asserted to be owed or due another, and/or who, in the process of collecting its own debts, used a name other than its own which would indicate that a third person was collecting or attempting to collect such debts.
- 7. Defendant Gordon & Weinberg, P.C. (G&W) is a professional corporation whose address is listed as 1001 E. Hector Street, Suite 220, Conshohocken, PA 19428 and, at all times relevant herein, operated as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and FCEUA, 73 P.S. § 2270.3 and acted by and through its owners, managers, officer, shareholders, authorized representatives, attorneys, partners, employees, agents and/or workmen.
- 8. Defendant, Frederic I. Weinberg, Esquire ("Frederic Weinberg") is, upon information and belief, an owner, manager, officer, partner, shareholder, authorized representative,

employee, agent and/or workman of G&W and, acting within the course and scope of his employment and/or business relationship with G&W and, at all relevant times herein, is located at or through G&W's office address at 1001 E. Hector Street, Suite 220, Conshohocken, PA 19428.

- 9. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant Frederic Weinberg is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and FCEUA 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 10. At all times material and relevant hereto, Defendants are jointly, severally, individually, vicariously and/or equitably liable to Plaintiff.
- 11. Defendants, at all times relevant hereto, were persons who used an instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which was the collection of debts, who regularly collected or attempted to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due asserted to be owed or due another, and/or who, in the process of collecting its own debts, used a name other than its own which would indicate that a third person was collecting or attempting to collect such debts.
- 12. At all pertinent times, Defendant G&W was hired by Defendant Asset and was acting on behalf of Asset to collect moneys relating to a consumer debt that was allegedly owed by Plaintiff.

### III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 13. On July 6, 2011, Defendant Asset filed a Statement of Claim number SC-11-07-06-3716 against Plaintiff in Philadelphia Municipal Court, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

  This Statement of Claim was signed by Defendant Frederic Weinberg. A true and correct copy of the aforementioned Statement of Claim is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."
- 14. The Statement of Claim states, inter alia:

- "At all time relevant hereto, the defendant(s) was the holder of a credit card, which at the request of the defendant(s) was issued to the defendant(s) by the plaintiff under the terms of which the plaintiff agreed to extend to defendant(s) the use of plaintiff's credit facilities. Defendant(s) accepted and used the aforesaid credit card so issued and by so doing agreed to perform the terms and conditions prescribed by the plaintiff for the use of said credit card. The defendant(s) received and accepted goods and merchandise and/or accepted services or cash advances through the use of the credit card issued by the Plaintiff."
- 15. The debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff in the above referenced Statement of Claim is a gym membership, not a credit card.
- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendants filed the municipal court lawsuit with the intent to either obtain a default judgment or coerce Plaintiff into a settlement.
- 17. Moreover, the alleged debt was not owed by Plaintiff, who had informed Defendant's counsel of such at a prior Court appearance. Despite this knowledge, Defendant's counsel failed to withdraw its lawsuit.
- 18. As a result, the undersigned was engaged by Plaintiff to appear at the hearing for the above referenced Statement of Claim on December 2, 2011, thereby incurring attorneys fees.
- 19. At the December 2, 2011 hearing, Defendant's counsel did not appear and judgment was entered for Plaintiff. A true and correct copy of the Order entering Judgment is attached hereto as Exhibit "B."
- 20. Defendants' actions, inter alia, as aforestated are deceptive, false and misleading under the FDCPA in that:
- a. Defendants used coercive tactics to collect the alleged debt by filing the municipal court lawsuit with the intent to either obtain a default judgment or coerce Plaintiff into a settlement;
- b. Defendants incorrectly classified the alleged debt as a credit card instead of a gym membership.

## COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. section 1692, et seq.

- 21. Plaintiff incorporates his allegations of paragraphs 1 through 20 as though set forth at length herein.
- 22. Defendants' actions as aforestated are false, deceptive, material and misleading to Plaintiff as follows:
- (a) Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person.
- (b) Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e by utilizing false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the debt collection, by averring that the alleged debt was a credit card debt instead of a gym membership.
- (c) Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) by falsely stating the character, amount or legal status of the alleged debt.
- (d) Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(5) by causing any charges to be made to the consumer, in this case, attorneys fees.
- (e) Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) by using a false representation or deceptive means to collect a debt.
- (f) Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f by using any unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect the alleged debt.
- 23. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' illegal collection efforts, Plaintiff has suffered damages in the form of attorney's fees, costs and expenses.

- 24. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' illegal collection efforts and communications, Plaintiff has suffered mental anguish, emotional distress, anger, anxiety, and frustration, fear, embarrassment and humiliation.
- 25. Plaintiff has been seriously damaged by Defendants' violations of the FDCPA and is entitled to actual damages, compensatory damages, costs and attorneys fees.
- 26. As a result of the foregoing violations of the FDCPA, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for actual damages, statutory damages, attorney's fees and costs in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

### **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

- 27. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 26 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 28. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.
- 29. As a result of each of Defendants' violations of the FDCPA, Plaintiff is therefore entitled to actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(1); statutory damages in amount up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A); and, reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) from each and every Defendant herein.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Lee Weingrand, a/k/a Leon Weingrad, prays that judgment be entered against each and every Defendant for the following:

- (1) Actual damages;
- (2) Statutory damages in the amount of \$1,000.00;

- (3) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- (4) Declaratory judgment that the Defendants' conduct violated the FDCPA;
- (5) Such other and further relief that the Court deems just and proper.

# COUNT II VIOLATIONS OF PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CREDIT EXTENSION UNIFORMITY ACT (FCEUA, 73 Pa. C.S § 2270.1, et. seq.

- 30. Plaintiff incorporates his allegations of paragraphs 1 through 29 as though set forth at length herein.
- 31. Defendants violated FCEUA, 73 P.S. § 2270.4(a), because any violation of FDCPA by a debt collector, as set forth above, constitutes an unfair or deceptive debt collection act or practice under FCEUA.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Lee Weingrand, a/k/a Leon Weingrad, prays that judgment be entered against each and every Defendant for the following:

- (1) An Order declaring that Defendants violated the FCEU;
- (2) Actual damages;
- (3) Treble damages;
- (4) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- (5) Such other and further relief that the Court deems just and proper.

# COUNT III VIOLATIONS OF PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW ("UTCPL"), 73 Pa. C.S § 201-1, et. seq.

- 32. Plaintiff incorporates his allegations of paragraphs 1 through 31 as though set forth at length herein.
- 33. Defendants violated UTPCPL, because, pursuant to FCEUA, 73 P.S. § 2270.5(a), any unfair or deceptive debt collection act or practice under FCEUA by a debt collector or credit, as set forth above, constitutes a violation of UTPCPL.
- 34. Other unfair or deceptive acts or practices defined as such in 73 P.S. §201-2(4) committed by Defendants include, but are not limited to, the following:

Defendants engaged in fraudulent or deceptive conduct which would create the likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.

35. Pursuant to UTPCPL, 73 P.S. § 201-3, such acts and practices are unlawful.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Lee Weingrand, a/k/a Leon Weingrad, prays that judgment be entered against each and every Defendant for the following:

- (1) An Order declaring that Defendants violated the UTCPL
- (2) Actual damages;
- (3) Treble damages;
- (4) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- (5) Such other and further relief that the Court deems just and proper.

### V. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

- 36. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraph 1 through 35 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 37. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby respectfully demands a trial by jury. US Const. amend. 7.Fed.R.Civ.P.38.

Respectfully submitted,

Mpf8441/s/Michael P. Forbes

Law Office of Michael P. Forbes, P.C.
By: Michael P. Forbes, Esquire
Attorney for Plaintiff
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Attorney for Plaintiff, Lee Weingrand, a/k/a Leon Weingrad